UM... WELL, I'VE ACTUALLY JUST MADE DINNER...
AHH... ♡ WHAT A LOVELY SMELL...
IT'S TRULY INTOXICAT-ING...
CHAPTER 4: A SUCCUBUS AND THE ADVENTURERS' GUILD
I'M A CONCUBUS WHO WAS EXILED FROM THE MAGIC REALM.
THE NAME'S MARIA.

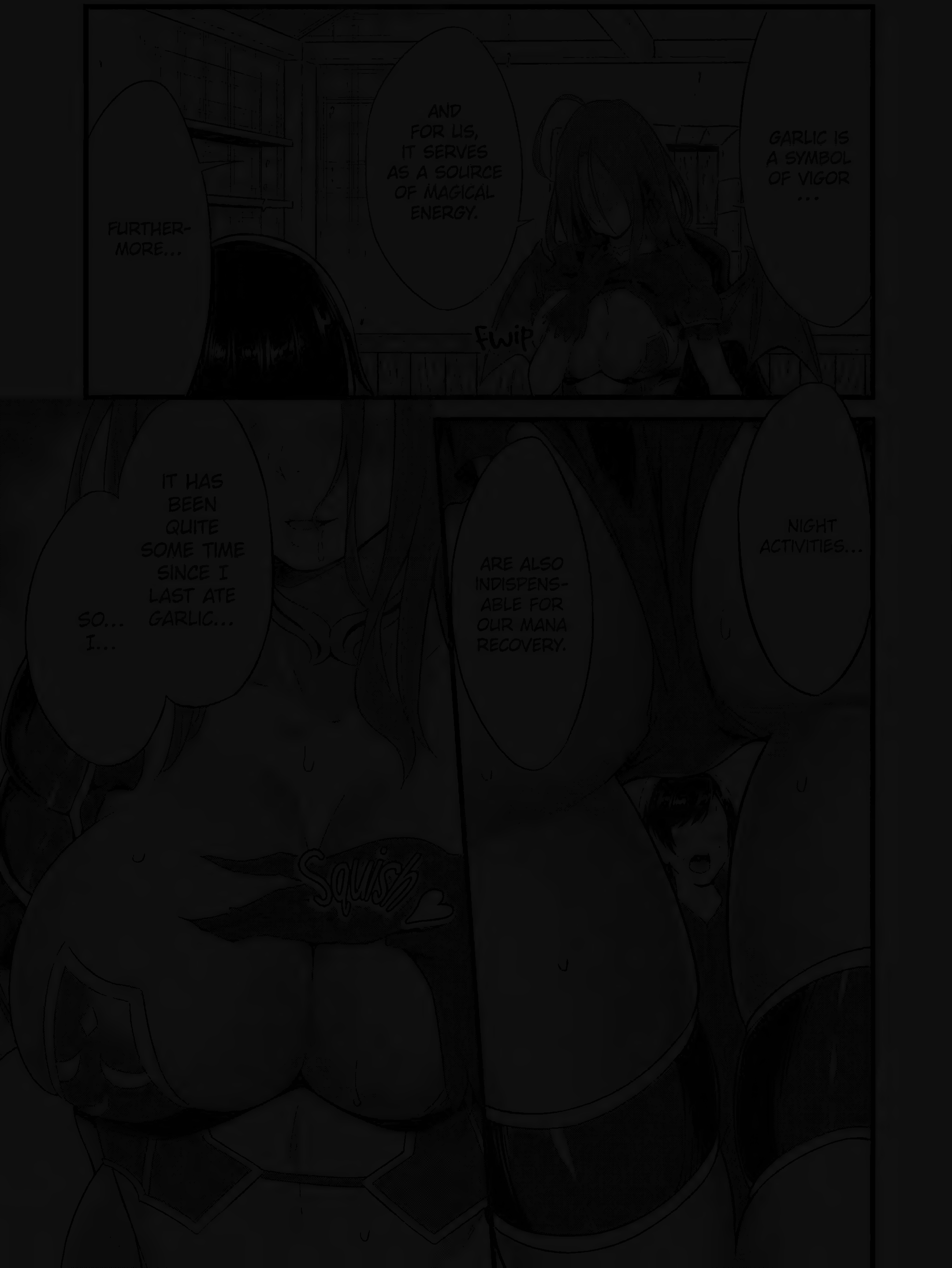
I LOST ALL MY POWER WHEN I WAS BANISHED...
SO I'M TRULY FAMISHED AT THE MOMENT.
...
WAIT, DOES SHE MEAN, LIKE... A SUCCUBUS?!
Stare
SHE'S SO SEXY! FANTASY WORLDS RULE!
SONIA LOOKS YOUNG ENOUGH TO PASS FOR A STUDENT...
BUT THIS WOMAN SEEMS TO BE MORE OF A "VOLUP-TUOUS" TYPE...
?
W-WELL...

IF YOU'RE HUNGRY, THEN HELP YOURSELF!
CLUNK
...
GULP
Munch
Nom
Nom
Nom Nom

THIS FLAVOR IS SIMPLY OUTSTANDING! ONE COULD MISTAKE IT FOR THE FRUIT OF THE GODS...
EVEN A CHEF OF THE MAGIC REALM WOULD BE INCAPABLE OF PREPARING A MEAL SUCH AS THIS!
Fwah
Chomp
Chomp
Chomp
DON'T EAT TOO QUICK OR YOU'LL END UP CHOKING.
Hah..! Hah..!
Hah...

The power...
Of meat and carrots...
BZZZZZT
...♥
HUH?! WHAT'S GOING ON?!

GREAT, NOW I'VE GOT ANOTHER WEIRD CHARACTER TO DEAL WITH.
BURST
I CAN FEEL IT...
IT'S OVERFLOWING!
Shwp
...
Rattle
Rattle
HEY, HEY, HEY! STOP THAT!
WE'VE ONLY JUST REFURBISHED THE PLACE!
BOOM


GARLIC IS A SYMBOL OF VIGOR . . .
AND FOR US, IT SERVES AS A SOURCE OF MAGICAL ENERGY.
FWIP
FURTHER-MORE...
NIGHT ACTIVITIES...
ARE ALSO INDISPENS-ABLE FOR OUR MANA RECOVERY.
IT HAS BEEN QUITE SOME TIME SINCE I LAST ATE GARLIC...
SO... I...
Squish

Hah... ❤
My body's begun to ache... ❤
Hah... ❤
Hah ❤
Hah
My queen! What are they talking about?
Shh, it's an adult conversation.
H-HOLD...
HOLD ON... LET'S JUST CALM DOWN, OKAY?
Poke
THE POWER THEY TOOK FROM ME WILL TAKE MORE THAN A DAY OR TWO TO RECOVER...

So, for the time being...
I would like to ask for your help in a matter or two...
H-hey! H-hold on there...
Look... we've only just met...
Surely that's an issue!

Do you... not want to?
I would love nothing more.
AND SO, I ACQUIRED YET ANOTHER ROOMMATE.
BY THE WAY, SUCCUBI ARE EVEN CRAZIER THAN THE LEGENDS SAY.

C'MON, YOU TWO... KNOCK IT OFF...
Drained
I CAN'T GET ANY FARMING DONE LIKE THIS!
YOU'RE SLEEPING WITH ME TONIGHT!
Squeeze
OH? IS THE CHILD TRYING TO SPEAK?
Cling
VERY WELL, THEN. HOW ABOUT THE THREE OF US SLEEP TOGETHER?
WE HAVE A DEAL~!
WHA?!
ARE YOU GUYS INSANE?!
LOOK AT THESE BAGS! THESE CHEEKS!

Would you...
Not want to?
Object?
GEEZ...
Clench
I CAN'T LIE TO MYSELF...
I would love nothing more.
YEAH...
I'D LOVE TO.
I REALLY WOULD... HOWEVER...

I'M ALREADY... PAST MY LIMIT...
ALL THE GARLIC IN THE WORLD... WOULDN'T...
Huff
Wheeze
Hah...
I REALLY CAN'T DO IT...
Skill: Lord of the Night level 10, activating.
Mmh?
Huh?

WHO ARE YOU?!
TATSUYA'S LITTLE TATSUYA IS OVERFLOW-ING WITH POWER!
Pshhh
...
KH... AH HA HA... HA HA...
HA... AH HA HA... HA HA HA!

MMH... G-GUH...
Twitch
Twitch
H-HELP...
Huff
Huff
EEE EEE EEK!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
LONG STORY SHORT...
TONIGHT IT WAS THEIR TURN TO BE PUSHED PAST THEIR LIMITS.
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

I'VE TAKEN OFF MY FEE!
GOT IT. THANKS AGAIN, ARISA.
OF COURSE! I'M OVER THE MOON AFTER THAT DEATH HAWK BUSINESS!
TATSUYA-SAMA...
A MOMENT, PLEASE...
THE FOX-EARED GIRL SEEMED RATHER SUSPICIOUS.
SO, I LOOKED INTO IT, AND DEATH HAWKS GENERALLY SELL FOR AROUND 1500 GOLD PIECES AT THE GUILD...
ARISA'S RIPPING ME OFF?!

SHE GAVE ME 750...
LEVYING A FEE IS NORMAL, BUT FIFTY PERCENT IS CERTAINLY NOT.
SHE IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF YOUR IGNORANCE, TATSUYA-SAMA.
NOW... WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THIS VIXEN?
HEY NOW, YOU'RE SCARING ME! QUIT WITH THAT DANGEROUS GRIN...
I'M NOT IN THE HABIT OF DOUBTING PEOPLE.
AFTER ALL, THIS IS SOMEONE WHO'S HELPED ME OUT AND GIVEN ME PLENTY OF INFO.
BIG PERSON!

WE CAUGHT A BIRD!
MORE FRIED CHICKEN, YAY!
THIS IS JUST WHAT WE NEEDED.
LET'S HEAD INTO TOWN.
I'LL SEE FOR MYSELF WHAT THE PRICES ARE REALLY LIKE.

Rattle
Rattle
Rattle
Shop, shop, shop! He he~
WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO EAT LUNCH, TATSUYA-SAMA?

HE HE ♡ YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT SO LONG AS I'M HERE.
I THOUGHT THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A BREEDING GROUND FOR DANGEROUS MONSTERS.
ARE YOU SURE WE SHOULD BE TREATING THIS LIKE IT'S A HIKING TRIP?
RUSTLE
!!
BIG PERSON!
RUSTLE

WHOA! A DEATH HAWK!
TWO OF THEM!
GLINT

FWOOOOSH
SONIA!

SLAP
SLAP
SKRRR
Smack
THUNK
THUNK
GREE!
GYEHH!!
Smack
THUNK
MY... I BELIEVE THIS BRINGS US UP TO 4500 GOLD.
ROGER, MY QUEEN!
WE'RE TAKING THESE TWO TO THE GUILD, TOO!
GUYS-

SWSH
NGREEHHH!
SHNK
SHNK
GYAHHHHH!
SHNK
SHNK
SWSH
GWEHHHH!
NGAHHHHHH!
...
SWSH
SWSH
THESE GUYS ARE WAY TOO STRONG.
I COULD'VE LEFT THE HOE AT HOME.
DOOM
?

GUOOOHHHH!
W-W-WHA... IT'S A DRAGON... A REAL, PROPER DRAGON...
THAT'S AN ARCH-DRAGON...
QUITE THE RARITY ♡

Fwooosh
BOOM
VWOOM
WHO AA!
SHOOM
Rumble
Rumble
Rumble
...
Shud der

Grip
AND...

ZOOM
HYUP!

THUNK
Wobble

FWSH
FWSH
Kap
Pow
Baff
Biff

YOU GUYS ARE TOO GOOD AT THIS!
WELL, I AM ORIGINALLY FROM THE DUCHY OF SUCCUBI, SO...
I LOST MY STATION IN THE MAGIC REALM BUT THANKS TO YOU, TATSUYA-SAMA, I FEEL BETTER THAN EVER! ♡
HE HE! YOU WON'T FIND MUCH TASTIER MEAT THAN DRAGON MEAT-
RIGHT, THERE'S NO WAY I'M LEAVING THE MEAT HERE.
I'M SURE ANY FANTASY FAN WOULD AGREE...
Hah Hah
IF YOU GET A CHANCE AT DRAGON MEAT, YOU'VE GOTTA TRY IT!
NOW, I'D LIKE TO GO OFF AND SELL THE BONES, FANGS, AND HIDE, TOO...
BUT I THINK THIS ONE MIGHT BE A LITTLE BIG TO CARRY INTO TOWN.
DING-A-LING-A-LING
WHAT'S IT GONNA BE THIS TIME?

Skill: Storage Chest level 10, activating.
ANOTHER WEIRDLY CONVE-NIENT SKILL. NICE.
clench
POOF
LOOKS LIKE IT WORKS SIMILARLY TO A 4D POCKET STYLE THING.
ANYWAY, THAT'S THE DEATHHAWK TRANSPORTA-TION ISSUE SETTLED.
Nghhh
APPARENTLY, THIS THING HAS INFINITE CAPACITY. IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE SKILL LEVEL.
PLUS, IT CAN ALSO FREEZE TIME INSIDE FOR UP TO AN HOUR, PROVIDING THE CONTENTS WEIGH NO MORE THAN ONE TON.
Squish
Phew.
SHWP

THANK YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS...
Though I don't really remember what you look like.
Glow
THOSE GARBLED SKILLS ARE ALL TOTALLY OVERPOW-ERED...
Space
TATSUYA-SAMA!
TATSUYA-!

IT SURE TASTES LIKE SOMEONE TRIED TO BURN ROTTING MEAT TO COVER UP THE TASTE.
INDEED, IT IS RATHER UNPLEASANT. ONE WOULD STRUGGLE TO DISTINGUISH IT FROM LITERAL TRASH.
THIS IS AWFUL... REALLY, TRULY AWFUL...
GLOOM
HE HE...
OH, OVER THERE!
I'm living by what you taught me, mom!
Shove
UGH ...

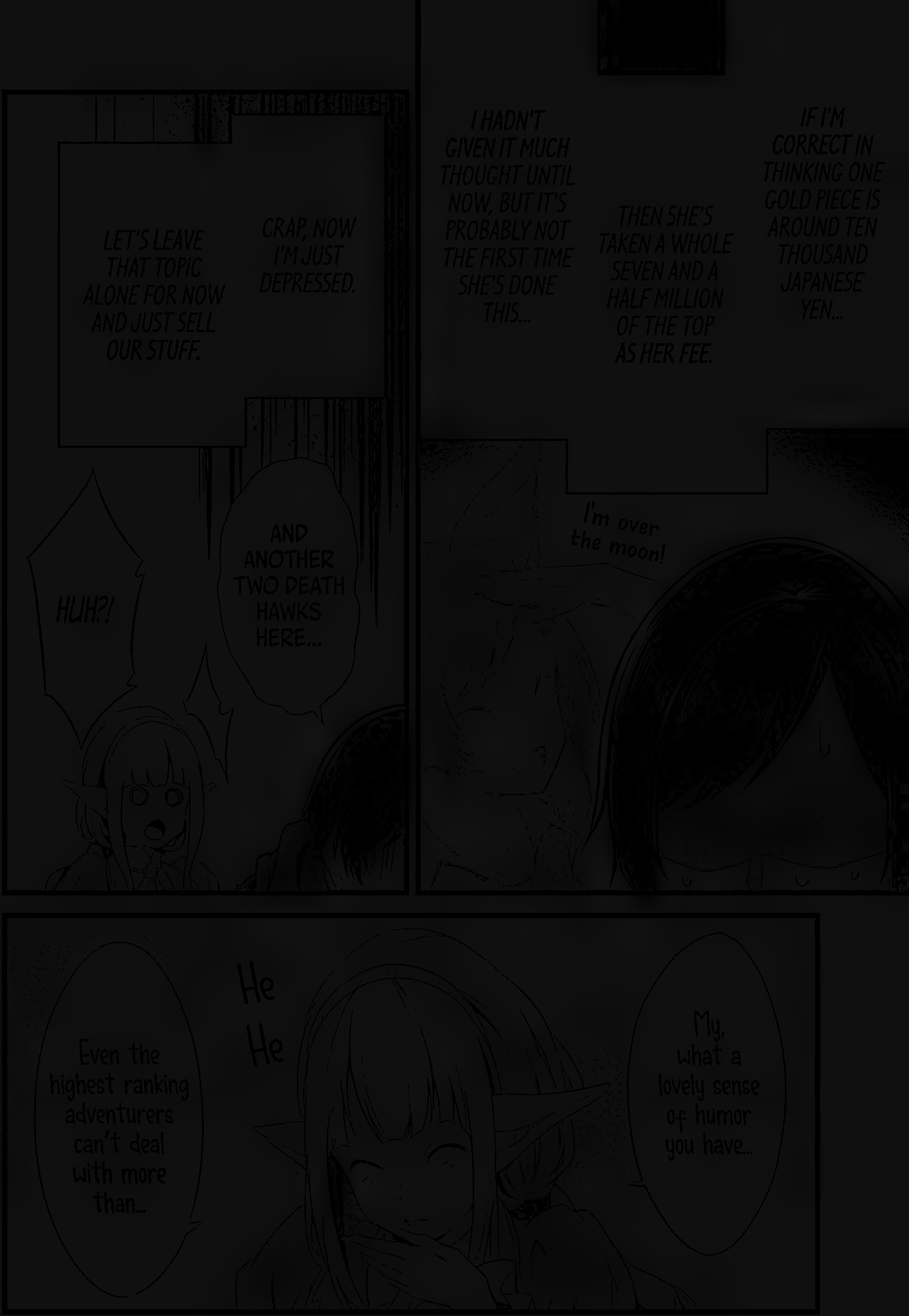
THE ADVENTURERS' GUILD.

Chatter
Chatter
Chatter
Chatter

WELCOME TO THE ADVENTURERS' GUILD! I BELIEVE WE'VE YET TO MEET!
WHAT MAY I HELP YOU WITH?
Smile
I'D LIKE TO SELL SOME MATERIALS.
VERY WELL. WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING TO SELL?
AND...

Hyup.
Squish
I-IS THAT... A DEATH HAWK?
I'D LIKE TO KEEP THE MEAT IF POSSIBLE.

Murmur
It's a death hawk...
Murmur
Murmur
A death hawk? You kidding?
LET'S SEE... A DEATH HAWK SHOULD BE...
1500 GOLD PIECES.
WHICH CONVERTS TO 15 ORICHALCUM PIECES.
OH.
SEE? YOU GOT CONNED.
GLOOM
AND NOW WE HAVE PROOF THAT ARISA'S BEEN RIPPING US OFF.


IF I'M CORRECT IN THINKING ONE GOLD PIECE IS AROUND TEN THOUSAND JAPANESE YEN...
THEN SHE'S TAKEN A WHOLE SEVEN AND A HALF MILLION OF THE TOP AS HER FEE.
I HADN'T GIVEN IT MUCH THOUGHT UNTIL NOW, BUT IT'S PROBABLY NOT THE FIRST TIME SHE'S DONE THIS...
I'm over the moon!
CRAP, NOW I'M JUST DEPRESSED.
LET'S LEAVE THAT TOPIC ALONE FOR NOW AND JUST SELL OUR STUFF.
AND ANOTHER TWO DEATH HAWKS HERE...
HUH?!
My, what a lovely sense of humor you have...
He He
Even the highest ranking adventurers can't deal with more than...

Squish
Shake
Tremble
AH... AHH...
Tremble
Tremble
Shake
W-WHAT IN THE NAME OF...?

OH, AND AN ARCH-DRAGON.
KA-THUNK
UMM... MISS?
Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha
Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha
Swsh
Swsh
HELLO?
Hee Hee
Hee Hee
MISS RECEP-TIONIST!

SORRY, I WAS JUST SO TAKEN ABACK...
Chatter
That's an archdragon!
Chatter
AN ARCHDRAGON IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS, FAR MORE SO THAN EVEN A DEATH HAWK...
Chatter
An arch-dragon?!
Chatter
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE A PARTY OF HEROES RETURNED FROM AN EPIC JOURNEY...
Chatter
Who are these guys?!
SO, IF I MAY... WHO EXACTLY ARE YOU PEOPLE?
OH NO, WE'RE JUST A PARTY OF FARMERS.
HONESTLY, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO FEEL ABOUT THESE TWO BEING ABLE TO KILL A MONSTER LIKE THAT IN SECONDS.
IN ANY CASE, AN ARCH-DRAGON IS WORTH 10000 GOLD PIECES.
ADDED TO THE DEATH HAWKS, AT 1500 PIECES EACH...
THAT WILL BE A TOTAL OF 14500 GOLD.
145 MILLION YEN?!

STILL, THAT'S ONLY WORTH 14500 YEN AT THE OFFERING BOX...
I'm over the moon!
IT'S A REAL SHAME THAT THE OLD SCROOGE HAS TO PUT A DAMPER ON MY PAYDAY LIKE THAT.
I GUESS I'LL GET A CASE OF BEER WHEN I GET BACK.
UM...
I'M AFRAID WE DON'T HAVE THE FUNDS ON HAND AT A SMALL, RURAL GUILD TO COVER THIS.
I WILL SEND WORD TO OUR NEIGHBORING BRANCHES TO GATHER YOUR PAYMENT.
UNFORTUNATELY, THE EARLIEST IT WILL BE AVAILABLE WOULD LIKELY BE TOMORROW AFTERNOON. IS THAT ALRIGHT, SIR?
Hmm...
OH, WELL.

SONIA, MARIA.
WOULD YOU MIND SPENDING THE NIGHT AT A LOCAL INN?
I WANT A ROOM FOR THREE-
YES, I CONCUR.
Snap
Ha Ha
Ha Ha
JUST SHOW A LITTLE SELF-RESTRAINT, OKAY?
YOU GUYS AREN'T EXACTLY QUIET.
Stmp Stmp
GUILD
SLAM
Stmp
Stmp

THERE'S BEEN A DISASTER REPORTED IN THE FOREST OF NO RETURN!
FETCH THE GUILD-MASTER!
A DISASTER ?!
ARE YOU FOR REAL?!
WHAT MONSTER ARE WE DEALING WITH?!
IT'S AN EVIL CYCLOPS, A TRIPLE S-RANK!
IMPOSSIBLE! FORGET THE GUILDMAS-TER, TELL THE KING!
I'm not scared. I'm not scared.
THE KING CAN'T HANDLE THIS, EITHER! SOMEONE, SEND WORD TO THE IMPERIAL CAPITAL!
Scream
Scream
WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT?
IS THIS EVIL CYCLOPS REALLY ALL THAT TOUGH?
AT 50 METERS TALL, I'D SAY IT'S RATHER TOUGH, YES.
Scream
Scream
Scream

SHOUT
KING OF ADVENTURERS, MARCUS-SAMA!
THANK THE HEAVENS THERE'S A WORLDWIDE HERO HERE IN OUR LITTLE VILLAGE!
YOU'VE DEFEATED AN EVIL CYCLOPS BEFORE, SO MAYBE YOU COULD...
HM?
ARE YOU LOOKING TO GET ME KILLED?

Flash
I HAD COMPANIONS BACK THEN.
ON MY OWN, MY CHANCES ARE FIFTY FIFTY HERE AT BEST.
THAT SAID, IF YOU CAN SCROUNGE UP SOMEONE ELSE WITH THE GUTS TO FACE AN EVIL CYCLOPS...
I MIGHT CONSIDER IT.
Grab
B-BUT!
IF YOU CAN'T DO IT, THEN SURELY...

DON'T GO TELLING PEOPLE TO RISK THEIR LIVES WHEN YOU WOULDN'T GIVE UP YOUR OWN.
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO'D RATHER STAY ALIVE.
MARCUS-SAMA.
WAIT... MARIA?!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE ♡

T-THE MAGIC REALM... WHAT HAPPENED?
WELL, IT'S RATHER COMPLICATED...
BUT, AT ANY RATE, IT MUST BE FATE THAT WE WERE REUNITED HERE ♡
Do they know each other?
No clue.
I SHALL JOIN YOU IN THIS FIGHT.
W-WHAT?!
DO YOU HAVE ANY OBJECTIONS?
NO... I WOULD CERTAINLY WELCOME YOUR AID, BUT...
TWO MAY NOT BE ENOUGH TO PREVENT CASUALTIES ON OUR SIDE...

PULL
THIS IS THE QUEEN OF THE PALMTOP RABBITS.
SHE WILL BE JOINING US, TOO.
HUH? WHAT? SOMETHING FUN?
OF COURSE. IT'LL BE VERY, VERY FUN...
BESIDES, IF WE DO NOTHING, EVEN OUR WONDERFUL HOUSE COULD BE DESTROYED...
HMPH! I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN! I'M GONNA PROTECT THE CARROT FIELD!
P-PALMTOP RABBITS...
YOU'RE... KIDDING... IN THAT CASE...
Sip
VERY WELL...
I ACCEPT.

WE'LL SPLIT THE REWARD THREE WAYS!
Of course ♥
Let's go~!
BAM
cheer
...
WAY TO GET LEFT OUT, HUH...
WE ONLY CAME OUT HERE TO DOUBLE-CHECK ARISA'S PRICES...
AND NOW LOOK AT WHAT WE'VE GONE AND GOTTEN OURSELVES INTO.